

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. A method of manufacturing a ferric 1,3-PDTA complex, comprising:
  - a) reacting ferrous bromide with unchelated 1,3-PDTA, thereby forming a ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex; and
  - b) conducting an oxidation process wherein the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex is converted to the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the oxidation process comprises aerating the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex with an oxidizing gas, contacting the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex with hydrogen peroxide or the combination thereof.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the oxidation process comprises aerating the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex with air.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the method forms a liquid containing the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex, and wherein an iron-containing precipitate does not form in the liquid for at least about 24 hours at about room temperature.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the method forms a liquid containing the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex, and wherein an iron-containing precipitate does not form in the liquid for at least about 2 weeks at about 4°C.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the method forms a liquid containing the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex, and wherein an iron-containing precipitate does not form in the liquid for at least about 2 weeks at about 50°C.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein an amount of ferric 1,3-PDTA complex is present prior to the oxidation process.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex forms a salt.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex forms a salt.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex forms a salt of ammonium, sodium, potassium or a mixture thereof.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex forms an ammonium salt.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein ammonium hydroxide is added to the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex formed in step (a).
13. The method of claim 1, wherein the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex is suitable for use as a bleaching agent in a bleach composition for processing a silver halide color photographic material.
14. A method of processing a silver halide color photographic material, comprising:
  - a) forming a bleach composition containing a bleaching agent by a method comprising the steps of:
    - i) reacting ferrous bromide with unchelated 1,3-PDTA, thereby forming a ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex; and
    - ii) conducting an oxidation process wherein the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex is converted to a ferric 1,3-PDTA complex; and

- b) contacting the bleach composition with the silver halide color photographic material.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the oxidation process comprises aerating the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex with an oxidizing gas, contacting the ferrous 1,3-PDTA complex with hydrogen peroxide or the combination thereof.
16. The method of claim 14, wherein the majority of the bleaching agent in the bleach composition is the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein the bleaching agent consists of the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex.
18. The method of claim 14, wherein an iron-containing precipitate does not form in the bleach composition for at least about 24 hours at about room temperature.
19. The method of claim 14, wherein an iron-containing precipitate does not form in the bleach composition for at least about 2 weeks at about 4°C.
20. The method of claim 14, wherein an iron-containing precipitate does not form in the bleach composition for at least about 2 weeks at about 50°C.
21. The method of claim 14, wherein at least about 80% of the ferric 1,3-PDTA complex in the bleach composition is manufactured by the oxidation process.